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Business Improvement District scheme could see firms unite

BANBURY town centre could be given a major boost if an "exciting" new scheme funded by local businesses is approved.

In an attempt to find a way of bringing more shoppers into the town, consideration is being given to setting up Business Improvement District.

The new project – the second of its kind in Oxfordshire – would involve companies pooling funds to back schemes which they believe would benefit the high street.

This could include marketing events. extra security for shops, or improve-

ments to car parking.

The proposals have been put forward by the town's Chamber of Commerce, with the support of local businesses.

Chamber of Commerce vice-chairman Nick Poole said: "This is a very exciting opportunity for Banbury and it has worked fantastically well in other places.

"Sometimes there can be a bit of re-

sistance to the idea but we find that after four or five years more than 90 per cent are in favour of doing it.

"The BID can be anything that the businesses want it to be, the money could be marketing or promotions, speKieran Davev kdavey@nqo.com

cial events and to bring people into the

In a BID businesses would pay an extra cost in business rates, with the money being held by an independent entity set up through the district.

This entity would have its own board, with business leaders elected by mem-

bers of the BID.

Mr Poole added: "You might get some businesses who do not want to take part, but unfortunately if they are in the minority they will have to pay the levy.
"It can be quite a small amount of

money so smaller businesses can benefit, and if everyone contributes they will get promotion as well."
A BID has already been approved for

Abingdon's town centre – the first in the county – with 58 per cent of 148 businesses voting in favour of the pro-

The idea was first put forward with

ing town centres.

the help of Bryan Brown, chairman of the town's civic society. He said: "We have found that these projects are very useful in regenerat-

**Banbury Cake** car deals. All in one place banburycake.co.uk/cars

"It gets the people who are concerned the most – the traders – getting the most involved and that is a really important

principle.

"Otherwise these areas will probably be managed by the public sector and they might not have the right experi-

The consultation will be carried out

by South Midlands-based company Heartflood, on behalf of Cherwell Dis-trict Council. The consultation began

on June 20 and will run until September.

Interested parties can contact Heart-flood on 07854 027080 or chris@heart-

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Radio Horton members Bob Dainty and Olga and Tom Wilson entertaining residents at The Ridings

#### Radio station request show aimed at care homes

A BANBURY-based radio station is reaching out to elderly people in the community by giving them a say in which tunes they play.

Radio Horton, based at the Horton Hospital, held their first music request programme last week specifically for residents in

It was to celebrate National Care Home Open Day, which aims to build relationships between

residents and the community.

For an afternoon on June 17 activity co-ordinators from homes in the local area were asked to submit songs which were then played on weekly show, Up For The Weekend.

Hosted by presenters John and Maria Mayo from 2pm to 5pm, care homes in Banbury streamed the show's live audio feed in their

Residents and family members were invited to have a listen and decide what songs they wanted to hear played.

Programme co-ordinator Sam Smette said: "Radio Horton has strived to provide patients in the Horton General Hospital with a hospital broadcasting service with weekly request shows.

"We have for some time been looking to expand and target a

wider audience, the residents of our local care homes, so this is a exciting opportunity.'

One of the care homes included in the show was the Ridings care home in Daventry Road, where the station's late co-founder Ted Hanson lived.

Going forward the station is hoping to develop the feature into a more regular programme on its schedule.

## Royal award for primary school literacy charity

Oxfordshire group ARCh handed Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Kieran Davey

VOLUNTEERS from an Oxfordshire reading charity have been given the royal seal of approval for their work in helping children to

love books.
Assisted Reading for Children (ARCh) has been handed the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – the highest award a charity can receive in the UK.

The charity's development managers, Jane Rendle and Elaine Adams, were handed the award by Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire Tim Stevenson.

They were joined by dozens of the charity's longest-serving volunteers

The ceremony took place in the grounds of Cokethorpe School, nearWitney. Ms Rendle said: "It was a won-

derful day and at such a wonderful venue as well.

"We're very grateful to the school for hosting us as we wanted to make the day special for all our volunteers.

This is for all the hard work they do and that reflects on the children they help as well."





Left, volunteers at the ceremony; from left, Jane Rendle, ARCh, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire Tim Stevenson and Elaine Adams, ARCh

The charity trains and supports volunteers to work one-to one with primary school chil-

Last year, it received a grant of £3,900 from the Gannett Foundation, the charitable arm of the Banbury Cake's parent company Gannett, to buy a host of new

The charity are looking for more volunteers to help develop the reading skills of the county's children.

The latest drive comes off the back of several years of investment in improving reading skills in the county after its pupils had some of the worst in the country for Key Stage 1 results in 2010.

two-vear Oxfordshire The Reading Campaign launched in 2012, with almost 1,200 primary school pupils taking part, run with the National Literacy Trust, backed by the Oxford Mail and funded by the county council.

And in 2014, two more schemes - Gaining Momentum and Every Child Writes – were launched to continue the progress.

To volunteer, or to find more information, go to the website archoxfordshire.org.uk.

#### Road row attack

A MAN was left with a broken nose and fractured cheek bone after a driver attacked him in Banbury.

The 51-year-old victim got out of a blue Ford Focus at traffic lights in Beaumont Road on Sunday to confront the driver of a white VW Golf.

A man pulled up in a white Mercedes at about 12.30pm as the pair were arguing, before assaulting the Ford driver

Thames Valley Police appealed for information from anyone who saw the attacker, who was white, of large build, about six foot tall, and aged about 30. Call police on 101.

#### Diesel leakage

A VEHICLE leaked diesel across two roundabouts in Banbury on Sunday

Fire crews were called to Hennef Way just before 8.50pm and had to use absorbent granules on to the road to make the route safe.

The vehicle had been travelling between Ruscote Avenue and the M40 roundabout when the diesel spillage happened.

### Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.
Group Managing
Director Marcus McGee

believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company

policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury

& Abingdon areas and manager James Miller agrees that this approach is a ajor factor in his success 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.' So, if your windows are

steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call or a tree quotation on 1800 61 21 118 and he'll be



#### Post office moving to a new location

BANBURY'S Post Office is set to move inside the Castle Ouav shop ping centre after it was threatened with closure

The branch, in High Street, was one of 39 to be franchised across the UK earlier this year and is likely to be moved inside the centre's WH Smith store

The Post Office has said the change will mean extending open hours while offering the same services as the previous office.

Post Office Crown Network general manager Roger Gale said: 'We are committed to keeping our services on the high street which we know is hugely important to people.

'This proposal means we can continue to do that, into the

Subject to consultation, the post office will have three serving positions, including one screened and two open-plan counters.



There would also be two selfservice kiosks.

The plans to franchise the office have been criticised by the Communication Workers Union, which represents post office workers.

Area representative Sue Trehearne said the news had been "unsettling" for workers and they had been left shocked when told the office might have to close.

Residents are invited to take part in a consultation, which

started last week, so they can have their say on the plans.

The public consultation welcomes feedback on factors on the location, the proposed premises, accessibility or other community issues residents would like to see discussed.

Opening hours will be 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday, and 10.30am to 2.30pm on Sundays.

The new office would be 500 metres from its current location.

Existing staff in the current branch have been offered the chance to take up a position at the new branch if they wish to do

SO.
Banbury MP Victoria Prentis previously called for possible franchisees to come forward and take on the running of the

The consultation will end on August 3. To have your say go to postofficeviews.co.uk.





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#### Couples go on charity's blind dates



**Emmeline Pearson and Dan** Sasanow get to know each other at Jamie's Italian

**MENTAL** health charity Mencap played cupid by organising a blind first date for members.

Following a similar set-up to the popular Channel 4 TV programme, First Dates, the event saw couples paired up for the first time as they entered the restaurant.

Will Davis, 21, from Banbury said he was looking forward to the opportunity to meet someone with similar interests.

He said: "I would like the person to be happy and enthusiastic. I love films and TV so I would hope they would also have an interest in them so we have something to talk about.

"It is not just about finding love, it is also about making friends.

The event took place at Jamie's Italian, in George Street, Oxford with the restaurant paying for the couples' meals.

Gemma Jeffs, 30, who lives in Banbury, said: "Love means a life partner; someone there for the long run; somebody who is always there

"If I don't find love, I hope to find someone who likes the same things as I do so we can build a friendship on that.

Rachael Blakey, employment coordinator, said the event was part of Learning Disability Awareness Week and aimed to encourage friendships and relationships.
She said: "We work with these

guys getting them into work and supporting them through interviews, applications and employment. But a job is only one part of your life. We want to support them and their wellbeing as a whole.

"We want to encourage friendships and build relationships with this event.

But of course, if something more does blossom, that would be fantastic. Disability or no disability everyone should have the opportunity to have love and relationships in their life."

08432 244 239

#### Holiday hub booking lines open for youth summer activities

**PLACES for the next Cherwell District** Council holiday hub are up for grabs as booking lines opened on Monday.

Summer holiday spots for those aged five to 15 can be booked for sessions in Banbury, Bicester and Bloxham

Activities include arts and crafts. games and sports including swimming, table tennis, fencing and archery. Cherwell District Council deputy

leader George Reynolds said: "The

district's children will be excited about spending six weeks off school but their parents may be concerned about how to keep them active and occupied

'Cherwell's hubs are a cost-effective solution, because young people can have fun while parents relax in the knowledge that their children are being looked after by qualified and DBS-cleared coaches.

'In the past year our hubs have been

in high demand. We are pleased to welcome repeat customers as well as new participants who are eager to get active and make friends.

"Because of the hubs' popularity we are opening the booking lines well in advance so that parents have ample opportunity to book their children a place and set them up for a summer of

The holiday hubs will run from

2, at North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury, The Cooper School in Bicester and the Warriner School in Bloxham.

Shorter hubs will run between August 3 and August 18 at Exeter Hall Pavillion in Kidlington and between July 27 and August 25 at Heyford Park Free School in Heyford.

For more information see cherwell. gov.uk/holidavactivities.

## **Walkers stride out at night** to give hospice £75k boost

kdavey@nqo.con

MORE than 800 people stayed up throughout the night and took to the streets of Banbury to support the Katharine House Hospice's annual Midnight Walk.

Walkers donned silver wigs, skirts and head boppers as they took part in a 10-mile walk around the town's

sights and landmarks. The 600 fundraisers who joined in were helped out by 180 volunteers from the hospice, who marshalled the route and registered walkers

Throughout the course the help were also on hand to cheer the walkers on and provide each with a bacon sandwich when they crossed the finishing line.

Among those taking part was Sallie Connery, who has now taken part in all 10 of the walks held by the hos-

She said: "It was a great night at the 10th midnight walk for the hospice, and I met some great people.

"I cannot believe I have now done this 10 times for Katharine House, it means I have walked 100 miles for my local hospice now.

The walk started at Banbury Cricket Club in Bodicote and took fundraisers on a circular walk of the outskirts of Banbury.

More than £75,000 has been raised so far from the night.

This year's event also had a silver theme, with walkers asked to wear as many sparkles as possible to celebrate 25 years since the hospice was

The hospice's communications officer Chris Higgins said: "A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the walk this year.

Everyone at the hospice is grateful to all the walkers who once again supported us with great enthusiasm



Walkers from the Katharine House Midnight Walk on Saturday night

and turned out in force to raise so much money.

Thanks as well to our fantastic volunteers who give so much of their time and energy for everything from fundraising events to driving patients to and from the Hospice. 'Without such amazing support, we really couldn't carry on caring.

It costs more than £3.6 million each year to run the hospice, based in Adderbury.





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### Sign up for guided tour of signal box

RESIDENTS, groups, schools and businesses can book their free visit to a historic signal box before its demolition later this year.

**Banbury North Signal Box** will be open for 10 weeks for guided tours demonstrating how signal boxes work, teaching railway safety and the

dangers of railway trespass. The box will be torn down on October 8 by Network Rail as part of £76m upgrades to the network

The tours are being organised by campaigners who have been fighting since January to save the box from demolition



They are also inviting other uses box including monthly meetings for groups, corporate evenings for businesses or as a

venue for birthday parties. Last month the group were told they would have to raise more than £160,000 to pay to keep the box, but despite setting up an online fundraising campaign they have not managed to raise

enough money in time. The box, which was built in 1901, is scheduled to be taken down when the area's signalling system is upgraded and moved from the town to the West Midlands.

The south signal box is due to be demolished on July 30. To find out more and book a free

place for tours go to banburynorth.youcanbook.me.

## Swimming dangers are highlighted by fire crews

Firefighters practise river rescue skills as part of **Drowning Prevention Week** 

Kieran Davey kdavey@nqo.com

FIREFIGHTERS across Oxfordshire have warned of the dangers faced when swimming in the county's rivers and ca-nals, as they mark National Drowning Prevention Week.

Latest figures show crews in the county were called out eight times last year to rescue people from water, but so far this year there have already been 13.

Last week firefighters in Ban-bury carried out a training exercise at a reservoir beside the M40.

The officers practised wading through the water, moving a rescue sled and throwing out a rope to people pretending to be in trouble.

Overlooked by station manager Steve Anderson, the crew worked hard to prepare themselves for the rescue calls they hope they will

never have to answer.

Mr Anderson, who has worked in the county for the last 15 years, said: "What we want to do is high-light the dangers that members the public have when they go swimming.

"We do not want to ruin people's fun, but there are some key messages we need to get out to stop people getting in that position."

There have also been four fa

talities since the start of last year from drownings.

That figure includes 16-year-old Ellis Downes from Harwell, who drowned in the River Thames at Culham last month, and Cheney School pupil Aown Dogar, 13, who



ures seem quite low, but actually for us they are pretty high.

"From a national perspective they are really pushing these messages for people to stay safe, as for us we are a small county but obvi-

ously have a lot of river water."

Speaking about the sharp increase in rescues, Mr Anderson said it might be down to the warmer weather so far this year which made people more likely to go swimming.

He added: "School holidays are

usually a peak time because there are more people going down to the

"In my personal experience, a lot of the people we rescue may have had too much to drink as well and ended up in the water."

Response teams will usually wade out if the water is low enough to walk, or will throw out a line of rope to pull someone in.

Firefighters will also patrol the river bank to watch out for any debris, and to warn against any

quick changes in currents.

Mr Anderson said: "That team will be able to swim through the water to get to people and they also have the use of a boat as well.



river rescue training as part of National Drowning

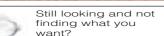
Firefighters from Banbury Fire Station carrying out

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#### Audit a council

RESIDENTS in North Oxfordshire will have the chance to inspect the accounts of the district council as part of its audit process

From July 1 until August 1, any person can see the accounts for the year, ending March 31, at the council's headquarters at Bodicote House, Bodicote.

These accounts include related documents such as books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts.

For more information call 01295

#### Choose tree site

A TREE has been donated to Bloxham by a plant nursery to help mark the Queen's 90th birthday, but it is up to residents where it should go.

The plant was given to the parish council by John Wyatt from Bloxham Nursery in Ells Lane.

If you have any suggestions about where the tree could be planted contact Theresa Goss on bloxhampc@aol.com.

#### Quiz councillors

PEOPLE in Banbury have the opportunity to raise concerns and issues with their town councillors at a surgery on Saturday.

Councillors meet at the town hall every first Saturday of the month for a chance to meet the people they

The surgery will take place from 10am to 12pm.

#### Greens party

LIVE bands, vegan food and massage experts are just some of the attractions for this year's North Oxfordshire Green Party annual gathering.

The party will be hosting the free event at the Old Wharf in Cropredy on Sunday, July 10, from 1pm.



## Campaign to win back seat

A PROMINENT Liberal Democrat councillor in Oxfordshire has urged party supporters to take advantage of a perceived crisis in the Conservative



Party to oust Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood and "win back" her hotly-contested seaf

Oxfordshire county councillor and Lib Dem parliamentary candidate for Banbury John Howson, pictured, made his call to arms yesterday in a statement headed: "Campaign now to win Oxford West and Abingdon back". He wrote: "For all those who

He wrote: "For all those who voted to 'remain' on Thursday, and for those that care about the future of Oxfordshire, however they voted, now is the time to tell the Tories, we believe in a decent, tolerant and international society."

Mr Howson made his plea two days after David Cameron announced he would be resigning as Prime Minister following his failure in the EU referendum campaign, and political commentators started counting off a list of potential successors.

Former Henley MP Boris Johnson has been named as the bookies' favourite, with Oxford bookmaker BetFred offering odds of 4/5.

BetFred offering odds of 4/5. Mr Howson said: "The years of Tory selfish lack of concern for the less well-off and careless disregard for those in need must come to an

## Parade tribute to Forces

Crowds gather to pay tribute to servicemen and women, past and present

Kieran Davey kdavey@nqo.com

MARCHING bands from across the country paraded in the sunshine as Banbury helped mark Armed Forces Day

Hundreds gathered in Spiceball Park as the town paid tribute to the country's servicemen and women past and present.

The highlight of the event was the world-famous Royal Artillery Band, which provided the music for the Trooping the Colour ceremony, in which the standard of the Banbury-based 142 Vehicle Squadron was recognised.

The town's army, navy and air force cadet corps – as well members of Banbury's Royal British Legion branch – joined the parade.

Colonel Ingrid Roland, deputy commanding officer of 11th Infantry Brigade, took the salute, joined by Town Mayor Gordon Ross and High Steward Sir Tony Baldry.

Town council leader Kieron Mallon said: "Every year this town organises a magnificent Armed Forces Day and we witnessed a very special event again this year.



"I want to thank the 142 Squadron and Banbury's cadet corps for helping in the organisation of

this event, and the town council looks forward to working with them again next year."

with them again next year."

Demonstrations and displays by Banbury's Air Training Corps, Army Cadets, Sea Cadets and American Forces Cadets were also part of

the arena entertainment, along with other sideshows and stalls.

Also among the crowds was guest of honour Bill Holmes, 95, who watched the displays with pride. The flight lieutenant, holder of the

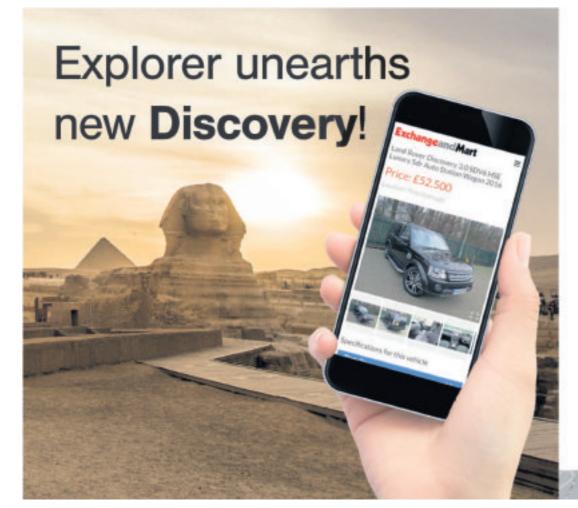
The flight lieutenant, holder of the Distinguished Flying Cross, was presented with his medal after piloting his badly damaged Stirling bomber back across the Channel on one engine after being hit by enemy fire in 1941.

He was on a mission to drop supplies to resistance groups in France, but despite being hit he refused to give up until he had dropped all his cargo. A fuel tank was damaged but the Banbury resident managed to reach the south coast where he crash landed at Thorney Island airfield in Suscay

Sussex.

The plane burst into flames, the navigator died and Mr Holmes and his crew were badly burnt.

Speaking after being handed his medal, Mr Holmes said: "The qualification for membership was being badly burned. Not many people wanted to join. There was some consolation. We had to be well-hydrated and so there was always a barrel of beer in our ward."





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## Special needs free school hope unveiled

A NEW free school could be set up in North Oxfordshire for pupils with complex special educational needs. The Iffley Academy, the county's

The Iffley Academy, the county's largest special school based in Oxford, has announced it is preparing a bid to open the facility for children aged seven to 18. The proposed school would offer specialist day provision for young people and mirror the practices of the Oxford school.

Iffley Academy headteacher Kay Willett said: "At present, many of our pupils, who have very specific learning needs, have to travel from Banbury and Bicester to attend our school in central Oxford. By opening a school in North Oxfordshire, we can educate these pupils in their local communities. The growth of housing development and the population in Banbury and Bicester is increasing, which is putting further pressure on special school places.

"A new school offering places for pupils with cognition and learning difficulties, social, emotional and mental health difficulties, and Autistic Spectrum Condition will complement and extend the excellent SEN already provided by the state-funded special schools in the area."

Parents and carers are invited to have their say on the proposal at a public meeting on July 11 at the Warriner School in Bloxham.

The meeting will start at 6.30pm and there will be more information about the application available.

Ms Willett said: "If you have a child

Ms Willett said: "If you have a child with special educational needs please come along."



### Reader Offers

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#### **Highlights & inclusions**

- A seated ticket to see André Rieu & The Johann Strauss Orchestra live in concert on the Vrijthof Square in Maastricht (ticket upgrades available)
- A visit to Maastricht
- Two nights' three-star standard bed
- and continental breakfast hotel accommodation
- Coach travel from the local area and Channel crossings
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager



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### **CakeLeisure**

#### banburycake.co.uk/leisure

## Fast-paced buddy comedy

mins) Comedy/Action/ Romance. Dwayne Johnson Kevin Hart, Amy Ryan, Danielle Nicolet, Tim Griffin, Timothy John Smith, Thomas Kretschmann, Phil Reeves. Director: Rawson Marshall

Thurber UNDERSCORED with a heartfelt anti-bullying message, Central Intelligence is a surprisingly sweet and goofy mismatched buddy comedy that might lack the quick-wittedness promised by its title but has good will in abundance.

Surprisingly, Dwayne Johnson is gifted the lion's share of the haphazard script's one-liners and physical pratfalls.

The wrestling superstar turned hulking action hero embraces his character's eccentricities with gusto, casting the typically hyperactive Kevin Hart as a relative straight man rather than the usual catalyst of on-screen tomfoolery

Calvin Joyner (Hart) was the golden boy of his high school in 1996, winning countless awards

for his sporting prowess. He proudly assumed the nickname Golden Jet and delighted classmates with his signature move: a backflip from a standing position.

In sharp contrast, overweight misfit Robbie Weirdicht (Johnson) was bullied mercilessly by classmates and suffered the humiliation of being flung naked into the school gymnasium during an end of term student rally hosted by Principal Kent (Phil Reeves).

Twenty years later, Calvin is a humble accountant, who has married his sweetheart, Maggie (Danielle Nicolet).

Their high school reunion beckons and Calvin is reluctant to attend because he doesn't feel he has delivered on the promise

of his formative years.
Out of the blue, Robbie reconnects with Calvin via social media and the two men bond over a couple of drinks.

It transpires that Robbie is a CIA agent, who may or may not be in possession of missile launch codes that are poised to be sold to a mysterious buyer (Thomas Kretschmann).

Rival CIA agent Pamela Harris (Amy Ryan) and her colleagues Mitchell (Tim Griffin) and Cooper (Timothy John Smith) recruit Calvin because they believe Robbie is a terrorist known as the Black Badger.

Torn between past and present, Calvin must deduce if he can trust Robbie or if he is being used as a pawn in a deadly conspiracy.

At a sprightly 108 minutes, Central Intelligence doesn't outstay its welcome, keeping us guessing about Robbie's true motives until the explosive final

Thurber's script, co-written by Ike Barinholtz and David Stassen, punctuates the fractious banter with slow motion action sequences including a hilariously overblown chase around an open-plan office.

The boundless, puppy dog energy of the film and its eagerto-please double-act ultimately proves irresistible.

ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS: THE MOVIE (15, 91 mins) ALMOST four years after a trio of 20th anniversary special episodes were broadcast on BBC One, Jennifer Saunders' awardwinning sitcom of barbed insults and fashionable excess saunters onto the big screen, directed by Mandie Fletcher.

Edina Monsoon (Saunders) is in the PR doldrums. Her client list has thinned and she continues to clash with her strait-laced daughter Saffy (Julia Sawalha), who has a 13-year-old daughter called Lola (Indeyarna Donaldson-Holness). Thankfully, best friend Patsy Stone (Joanna Lumley) is still in the media eve and her magazine is sponsoring the lavish Huki Muki Retrospective launch party. Kate Moss, who is



Dwayne Johnson as Bob Magnum and Kevin Hart as Calvin Joyner in Central Intelligence; inset, Jennifer Saunders as Edina Eddy Monsoon and Joanna Lumley as Patsy Stone in Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie

currently between PRs, is due to attend and Edina vows to woo the model and land her before arch rival Claudia Bing (Celia

This hare-brained scheme goes tragically awry and Eddy's secretary Bubble (Jane Horrocks) vanishes at the most inopportune moment so the despondent duo are forced to go on the run.

They head for the Cote d'Azur,

where they intend to salve their woes by snagging wealthy husbands. Unfortunately, Edina's mother (June Whitfield) is also in the South of France to celebrate the birthday of her well-to-do sister, Violet (Wanda Ventham).



#### Cake Bookworm

is published in hardback by Picador, priced £12.99 (ebook £6.02)

IT'S no surprise that Jessie Burton's second novel, The Muse, is one of the most anticipated books of 2016. Her first, The Miniaturist, became an international bestseller and was named Waterstones' Book of the Year 2014. The author's latest work is just as ambitious as her first, and like her debut, it's clear that a great deal of research has gone into creating this work of historical fiction. A dual time frame novel, the action begins in 1967 with young Caribbean immigrant Odelle Bastien getting to grips with her new life in London. Initially working at a shoe shop, the aspiring writer is offered a typist job at the prestigious Skelton Art Gallery. She becomes embroiled in the discovery of a notable artwork from the Spanish Civil War, and it's then that the reader is taken back

where the formerly 'lost' painting is being created. The Muse is a taut thriller, combining art, politics and

Barkskins by Annie Proulx is published in hardback by Fourth Estate, priced £18.99 (ebook

ANNIE Proulx is the Pulitzer Prizewinning author best known for The Shipping News and Brokeback Mountain. As a history graduate, Proulx has indulged her passion by detailing North American history from 1693 right up until 2013. The story starts as Rene Sel and Charles Duquet arrive in New France (Canada) to chop trees for the odious and rather comical Monsieu Trepagny. The settlers struggle to tame the wild landscape, and their treatment of the Native Americans is shocking. The rest of this epic novel follows the ancestors of this pair, and shows how the human race has damaged the world's

forests over the last 300 years. Whilst Proulx's writing is clever and her research impressive, the many characters become confusing and it's hard to feel attached to them. **Everyone Is Watching by Megan Bradbury is published in hard**back by Picador, priced £12.99 (ebook £6.47)

DESPITE this being Megan Bradbury's first novel, there is nothing of the inexperienced debutant in this high-concept novel. In a narrative about art, creativity and vision, she shows the flair of an artist, capturing snapshots, vignettes of the characters who inhabited New York through the culturally, socially and sexually transformative period from the 1890s through to the present day. Notably, these include poet Walt Whitman, city planner Robert Moses, photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and novelist Edmund White. But as much as this novel is about art, it is also about sensuality, sexuality and love

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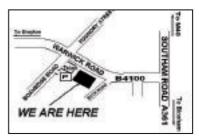
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## **Oxfordshire Listings**

#### **Events**

#### **THURSDAY**

253505

**Archaeology Night:** Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Hear all about the University of Oxford's latest research projects in the area. Free (donations welcome) but please book. 6pm. 01865 407792.

**Flower Festival:** St Leonard's Church, Middleton Road, Banbury. Flower festival and church history display to celebrate 125 years of service to the local community. 10.30am. Donations. 01295 262 077.

Future of Education Debate: Studio, Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. 6pm. £10/8/2. 01865 £53505. John Simpson – Life in the World's Troubled Regions: Festival Marquee, Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford. BBC World Affairs Editor John Simpson discusses his first-hand experiences of world-wide events, from the 2011 Libyan civil war to the current-day migrant crisis. 8pm. £10/8/2. 01865

Ramblers walk: Chinnor Hill car park, Chinnor. Undulating six-mile walk to Radnage church and Yoesden Bank (BBOWT). Bring a picnic. Walk not suitable for dogs. 10am. 01865 358905. Robotics Open Evening: RACE, Culham Science Centre, Abingdon. A chance to find out how robotics are being used in the world around us in everything from driverless cars to nuclear energy, construction and space exploration. Places are free but must be booked in advance at www.race-ukaea.uk/race-uk-robotics-week-30-june/ 6pm. Free. 01235 464846.

Science Quiz: King's Head & Bell, 10 East St Helen Street, Abingdon. In association with the ATOM Society. Find out more at www.

oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/abingdon-events.html. 9pm. £1.

Tapping The Fountain Of Life – Stem Cells & The Promise Of Regenerative Medicine: Larkmead School, Faringdon Road, Abingdon. Paul Fairchild will discuss the various types of stem cells and the properties that distinguish them from other cell types of the body, while providing an overview of the likely impact that tapping this resource will have on modern medicine in the future. Book at www. oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/thursday. html. 7pm. £6/£4 (concs)/£19 (family).

#### **FRIDAY**

Finstock Festival and School Fete:
The Playing Field, Finstock, access via
Church Rise, Finstock. Live music from
Swanny Lane, followed by Alex
Chapman. 7pm. Free. 01993 868215.
Sam Mendes: Festival Marquee,
Magdalen College School, Cowley Place,
Oxford. Oscar-winning director Sam

Oxford. Oscar-winning director Sam Mendes discusses his illustrious career, from his revival of the Donmar Warehouse to the latest Bond films. 6pm. £10/8/2. 01865 253505.

Summer Sizzle: Witney Community Primary School, Hailey Road, Witney. Stalls, barbecue, licensed bar, balloon release, prize raffle and live music. 3.30pm. Free. 07753 126619.

#### SATURDAY

Alice's Day: Alice's Day, Pembroke Street, Oxford. This year the theme is 'Animals in Wonderland'. Take part in a White Rabbit scavenger hunt round Oxford city centre, get some good advice from the Caterpillar at the Weston Library, join the dance with the Lobster Quadrille at the The Story Museum and enter a Caucus Race at Museum of Natural History. 1pm. Most events free. 01865790050.

**Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers:** Eight Bells, High Street, Eaton. Leisurely

nine-mile circular walk in the Cumnor area. Picnic lunch. Leader Lionel Howse. 10am

Bionic Hearing - The Science And The Experience: Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, Abingdon. Ian Shipsey, particle physicist and Professor of Physics at Oxford University, has been profoundly deaf since 1989. In 2002 he heard the voice of his daughter for the first time thanks to a cochlear implant. Learn the physiology of natural hearing, the function of cochlear implants, and experience speech and music heard through a cochlear implant. Prof Shipsey was one of the leaders of the experiments that discovered the Higgs particle in 2012. Book at www. oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/grandfinale.html. 7pm, £7/£5(concs)/£22

BYHP'S Big Lunch: BYHP, 2 Chandos Close, Banbury. Bring and share food and drink, live music, face painting, junk modelling, garden games and a bouncy castle. For more information visit http://www.byhp.org.uk/schedule-of-events.html 12pm. Free. 01295 259 442. Camino Del Flamenco: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Enjoy the colourful, passionate art of Flamenco dance. With more than 60 dancers, accompanied by a line-up of top professional Spanish musicians and singers. 7pm. £12.50, £10.50 (concs). 01235 515144.

D8568 Clayton Only Running Day: Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Station Road, Chinnor. D8568 Clayton Only Running Day, the sole survivor of the 117 built. A special timetable available on website www. chinnorrailway.co.uk 9am. Adult £11, senior £10, child £6. 07979 055366.

Feather mobiles – craft workshop: The Mix Community Space, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. 2pm. Free. 07768 767787.

Finstock Festival and School Fete:
The Playing Field, Finstock, access via
Church Rise, Finstock, Saturday will
begin with the Great Finstock Bake Off,
followed by the School Fete and Fun Dog
Show. Live music from Vinyl Daze in the
evening. 7pm. £5. 01993 868215.

Flywheel Festival: Bicester Heritage, Buckingham Road, Bicester. A festival of historic motoring, aviation and military endeavour. 10am.

Front Row Festival: Fritwell Playing Fields, Fewcott Road, Fritwell. Music, children's entertainment and games. 12pm. £15 / £20 /£25. 07714 168471. Moth Night: Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. An evening of moth trapping with Marc Botham. Suitable for adults and older children. Booking essential. 9pm. £5 adult, £2 child. 01865 407792. Stonesfield fete: Stonesfield School, High Street, Stonesfield. Live music from The Delly Welly Band, the Nuttellas and the 7 o'clock Junkies. 12pm. Free.

#### **SUNDAY**

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Lower Street Car Park, Lower Street (opposite the Swan pub), Islip. Leisurely 4.5-mile walk to Woodeaton. Leader Sue Curtis. 2pm. 07986 813352.

Born And Made – Synthetic Biology And Creative Writing: Abingdon School, Abingdon. Learn about synthetic biology and free your creativity in this one-day workshop designed for young adults. Interactive exercises with synthetic biologists will catch you up on the latest discoveries and exciting new biotechnologies, including the creation of synthetic genomes and biological nanomachines. Book at http://www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/grand-finale.html. 10am. £5.

Ewelme Watercress Beds Nature Reserve Open Afternoon: Watercress Centre, The Street, Ewelme. 2pm. £3 per adult and free for accompanied children. To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Flea Market and Collectors Fair, Donkey and Dog Show: Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. 10am. Buyers entry 50p. 01491 833938.

Hunting The Higgs – The Ministry Of Sense: Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, Abingdon. Using a smartphone or tablet you will have direct access to LHC data, and complete interactive games to help solve problems and analyse data. Book at www. oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/grand-finale.html. 1.30pm. £7/£5(concs)/£22

Level Up Human!: Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, Abingdon. What are the next steps for human evolution? Natural changes or technologies? Join science writer and TV presenter Simon Watt, and his guests, for the live recording of a podcast series. Book at www.oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/grand-finale.html. 7pm. £7/£5(concs)/£22 (family).

Marvellous Moths: Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. Taking a look at what was caught in the live moth traps the night before. No need to book. 10am. £4 suggested donation per child. 01865

Open Garden in aid of The Wychwood Wild Garden: Hunters Lodge, High Street, Shipton under Wychwood. 2pm. £3 per adult and children under 5 free. 0845 8056804

Senior Specials and cream teas: Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Station Road, Chinnor. All Seniors 60+ travel for £5. Five timetabled trains; 11am (steam), 12.15pm (vintage diesel), 1.30pm (steam), 3pm (steam), & 4.30pm (steam). Adult £11, senior £5. child £6. 07979 055366.

Smashing Physics – News From The Energy Frontier: Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, Abingdon. Join physicist and Guardian science blogger Jon Butterworth in a science adventure about the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. Book at www.

oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/grand-finale.html 4.30pm. £7/£5(conc.)/£22 (fam.).

UK Science And Technology Policy:
Amey Theatre, Abingdon School,
Abingdon. Nicola Blackwood, local MP,
is chair of the Science and Technology
Committee of the House of Commons.
Engage in a conversation chaired by
Hannah Devlin, science correspondent
for The Guardian. Bookat www.
oxfordshiresciencefestival.com/grandfinale.html. 3:00pm. £7/£5(concs)/£22
(family).

Witney Giant Afternoon Boot Sale: Ducklington Showground, A415 Standlake Road, Ducklington.. 10am. 07974 056379.

#### **MONDAY**

Jewellery for hope: Vesey Room, Old Grammar School, Church View, Bampton. Unique pieces of jewellery handmade by Laura Hounam to raise funds for Against Breast Cancer. 11am. Free. 07816 333653.

#### **TUESDAY**

**Book Group Night:** Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. 7.30pm. Free. 01235 515144.

#### **WEDNESDAY**

**The Western Art Collection:** The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street,

Woodstock. Jude Barrett (Ashmolean Education Officer) will speak about the Western Art Collection at The Ashmolean Museum. Free to members - £2 for guests. 7.30pm.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Wolvercote, Riverside Car Park, Oxford. SP487094 3.5 miles Pleasant stroll around the river. Possible pub stop at end of walk. Assistance dogs only. 6.30pm. 01865 514663.

#### Music

#### **THURSDAY**

Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford: Jali Fily and Friends: an Evening of Senegalese Music. £15/10. 7.30pm. 01865 253505.

SJE Arts, Iffley Road, Oxford: Benet and Viv McLean. Pianist Viv McLean will be joined by his brother Benet, a virtuoso jazz pianist and accomplished violin player, for a diverse evening of classical and jazz numbers. £20/17/10. 7.30pm. 01865 253505.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Brickwork Lizards, Faith i Branko. Turkabilly hip hop world jazz collective. 7pm. £5.

Joe's Bar & Grill, 260 Banbury Road, Oxford: Alvin Roy Quartet. Jazz. 8pm. Free.

The Cock Inn, Combe: Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8pm. Free.

#### **FRIDAY**

All Saints' Church, Lime Walk, Headington: Requiem: John Rutter. Headington Singers Summer Concert. £12, £10 concessions, children free. 7.30pm. 01865 762418.

**Angel, Market Square, Witney:** Kev G. Free. 9pm. 01993 703238.

Freeland Village Hall, Wroslyn Road, Freeland: The Dirty Earth Band. £10 each, or pair of tickets for £15, in advance. 7.30pm. 01993 886896. The Wheatsheaf. 68 George Street.

**Banbury:** Ferocious Dog. £13.75. 6pm. 01295 266525.

#### **SATURDAY**

Burford School, Cheltenham Road, Burford: Burford Singers Spring Concert. Res in advance £15, unres £13, on day £17, £14, £10. 7.30pm. 01993 822412

St Peter's Church, Thames Street, Wallingford: Jinah Shim (piano). £14 or £12 paid in advance. 8pm. 01491 824792.

Fritwell Playing Fields, Fewcott Road, Fritwell: Front Row Festival. £15 / £20 /£25. 12pm. 07714168471. Royal British Legion. Spring Road.

Band. Free. 8.45pm. 01235 554418. School Field, Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford: Madrigals on the Water. £15/12/2. 7pm. 01865 253505.

Abingdon-on-Thames: AMC Blues

Sparsholt Church, Sparsholt, Wantage: Wantage Choral Society Summer Concert. £12 (£10 if ticket purchased prior to the event. 7.30pm. 01235 798349.

St Kenelm's Church, Old Minster Lovell, Minster Lovell: Music for a Summer Evening. Concert by The Brize Singers. Wine & nibbles served. Donations to St Kenelm's Church Building Appeal. 7pm.

Hogacre Common Eco Park,

entrance Whitehouse Road, Oxford: Irregular Folks' Summer Sessions. Mini festival. 12.30pm. £15.

Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock: The Muttz Knuttz. Party rock band. 8.30pm. Free. 01993 812094.

#### SUNDAY

All Saints' Church, Church Street, Sutton Courtenay: Capital Capers. Light choral music from Vienna and London, plus instrumentals, as Albert Park Singers launch their seventh season of Parish Proms. £6.50 (Student £4); Season Pass £28 / £16. 6pm. 07788 715873.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown: Tom Pilling Trio's Oscar Peterson Tribute. Piano, bass and drums. 6.30-9pm. Free.

#### **MONDAY**

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Easy Star All-Stars. US reggae band. 7pm. £17.50 (adv).

#### TUESDAY

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Groove Alchemy. Jazz/funk band playing modern/bop jazz. 8.30pm.

#### **WEDNESDAY**

The Library Pub, 182 Cowley Road, Oxford: Vidar Norheim. Liverpool-based musician, composer and producer from Norway. 7pm. £4 adv.

#### Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Jun 29-30, Shakespeare's *King John*. 9pm. £6/4/2. Jul 1, *The Rape of Lucrece*. 7.30pm. £10. £8. 01865 305305.

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Jul 1, Cabaret of the Elements. Part of the Oxfordshire Science Festival, 7.30pm. Jul 2, John Lynn, Rhys James, Darius Davies and Johnny Pelham.

7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 04007.

Oxford Castle, New Road, Oxford:
Jun 20-Jul 2, Taming of the Shrew.
7.30pm. £15 adults, £13 concessions.
Jul 4-16, Much Ado About Nothing.
7.30pm. £15 and £13. 01865 260666.
Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road,
Oxford: Jul 1, Ventoux. 7.30pm. £13, £9 concessions, £6 under 18s. Jul 2, Red
Shed. 7.30pm. £10. 01865 812150.

Multiple locations, Becket Street, Oxford: Jun 23-Jul 30, A Midsummer Night's Dream. 7.30pm. £24. 01865 766266.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Jun 30-Jul 2, LazyTown Live. Various times. £16.65 plus £2.85 transaction fee. 0844 871 3020.

School Field, Magdalen College School, Cowley Place, Oxford: Jun 28-30, Love's Labour's Lost. 7.30pm. £10/8/2. 01865 253505.

The Gardens of Wadham College, Parks Road, Oxford: Jun 28-Aug 18, Love's Labour's Lost. 7.30pm. £18-£23 (Previews June 28-30 £13). 0844 879 4418

Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford: Jul 1, Encore summer showcase. Sinodun Players youth group. 6.30pm. £5. 01491 825000.

Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot: Jun 30, Comedy Club. Pierre Novellie, Tom Ward, Hal Cruttenden's and Andrew Ryan. 8pm. £12.50, £11 (concs). Jul 1, George Egg. 8pm. £15, £13.50 (concs). 01235

## CakeSport banburycake.co.uk/sport



Eastleigh, who have former Oxford United fans favourite James Constable in their ranks, visit Banbury United on July 7

## Ford hopes for big gate

#### Puritans to take on Constable's Eastleigh

BANBURY United manager Mike Ford is looking forward to welcom-Eastleigh to the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium as his side prepare for their new campaign.

The Puritans will host he Vanarama National League side in a pre-season friendly on Thursday, July

With several former Oxford United players likely to feature for the visitors, Ford (right) – a former U's star himself – is hopeful of a good turnout as they get

FOOTBALL



ready for the start of the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division

"James Constable was a real fan favourite during his time at Oxford and he will hopefully be involved,"

he said.
"I think they have another one or two who also have an Oxford connection, so it's definitely a good opportunity for any Oxford United fans in the area to come down and see us play."

#### BANBURY UNITED PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES JULY

JULY
Eastleigh H
Coventry Sphinx A (7.15pm)
Easington Sports A
Brackley Town H
Hednesford Town H
Thame United A
Hungerford Town A

ATHLETICS

#### Ennis delight at 200m final

KYLE Ennis was delighted with his performance at the British Championships in Birmingham.

The Banbury athlete reached the final of the 200m at the Alexander Stadium, qualifying as one of two fastest third-placed finishers from the heats.

Ennis then finished eighth in 21.43secs.

He said: "I didn't expect to make the final so it was a good day."

#### **CRICKET**

#### Frustrating day

BANBURY'S Home Counties Premier League match at Reading was abandoned due to rain on Saturday.

The visitors had reached 52-1 from 22.4 overs after being put in to bat in the Division 1 encounter before the showers arrived.



#### **Edinburgh Tattoo,** Northumbria & Lindisfarne

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This great value break combines a visit to Edinburgh and the magical Tattoo with the chance to explore the fabled offshore island of Lindisfarne and Northumbria.

#### **Highlights & inclusions**

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- A full day exploring Northumbria
- Visits to Bamburgh, Lindisfarne and Harrogate
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- Dinner on two evenings
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager



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Thank to Venus, you begin to get some real answers to selform in your life without having to beg your close ones to unifly ousses how much further this week's starts are going to allow you to incited with you, as you did leat week. You also start to realise a lafford to dream bigger. This could leave those who don't want as could end up paying for your mistake for months and not just weeks to mile as you do! that the beguing the paying for your mistake for months and not just weeks to onlife as you do! that they week. You also start to realise a could end up paying for your mistake for months and not just weeks to mile as you do! to this the shade. The Sub ribings creatively, Ring come. You know what needs to be done. Do it Call mose we can make

0906 585 4360 0906 585 4366

**70906 585 4362 70906 585 4368** 

here are some really interesting negotiations torecast to take een you and your loved ones, which should go a long way to their recent strange behaviour. Don't tell tales on those you rit will come back on you. Keep other's secrets this week, and syear. It will pay you back tenfold my friend. Ring now to hear

**1**0906 585 4364 **1**0906 585 4370

**7**0906 585 4365 **7**0906 585 4371



m 0906 585 4361 m 0906 585 4367

May 21-Jun 20 SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

I can see you haven't been feeling as strong as you should
The bad influences are gone and you realise that file is state
or Tuesday, you receive news which gives you resson to feel
upbeat and in control of your life. You also start to focus better on
valeer and work out where you need to cut back in order to excel
tee. Nepture makes you more spiritual which leads to some very
commitment. Ring now to hear how foreign names and contacts hold the

neresting interactions. Call now for a full update. Rey to opportunity. 0906 585 4369

Jul 23-Aug 22 🐴 AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Aug 23-Sep 22 PISCES

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### **Independent Retailer Month**

## Campaign showcases benefits of small retailers

encouraged to support small businesses during Independent Retailer Month this July.

The national campaign highlights the contribution of local independent retailers to the community, the local economy and the retail sector as a whole.

According to research, for every £1 spent locally, between 50p and 70p recirculates back into the local economy. But for every £1 spent out of town or online, just 5p trickles back to the local community.

By convincing people of the benefits of buying locally, the initiative aims to change shopping habits long term and increase footfall in high streets and village centres

A key message of the campaign is that, as well as offering a more personal shopping experience and attentive customer service,

smaller shops also offer good value for money. Banbury's Old Town with its selection of small, independent stores and tea shops offers old-fashioned charm for shoppers. Where the Castle Quay Centre provides a

modern shopping experience with big national



INDEPENDENT: Banbury's Natural Health Store

chains, the Old Town retains its historic atmosphere

Several local bakeries and restaurants sell the famous Banbury Cakes, which have been made to a secret recipe for hundreds of years.

One of the local businesses based in Banbury is the Natural Health Store and Therapy Rooms in George Street. The shop sells vitamins and supplements, natural cosmetics and health

#### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

▲ Make a pledge to shop locally as much as possible for the month of July to support local independent retailers

▲ Search for local independent shops on the retailer database at

independentretailermonth.co.uk ▲ Follow the campaign on Twitter @IndieRetail to find out what's happening

in vour area

▲ Encourage your friends to shop locally

food. Owner Annette Tuckey said the business grew out of her passion for the natural health

She said: "Most independent retailers set up their business in an industry they are passionate about. This certainly was the case for me and I am really enjoying every day. I would hope customers feel they experience a personal service in our store and can draw from my knowledge."

Support for Independent Retail, the organisation behind the campaign, is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of local

and inspiration to help retailers stay open for business despite the challenges, such as competition from big online retailers.

Its website features a free Independent Shops Directory where shoppers can search for small businesses

There is also a selection of free resources which business owners can download, including Independent Retailer Month posters to display in-store throughout July.
Shops are encouraged to record videos

to promote their business and products or services. Sharing positive customer feedback on social media is another way retailers can spread the word about the benefits of buying

The Oxfordshire Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses across the county, is backing the campaign.

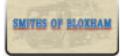
Its president, Peter Smith, said: "At the Chamber, we are very supportive of local businesses supporting their local communities.

"We would encourage residents to support Independent Retailer Month - it is important to recognise and encourage small shops.



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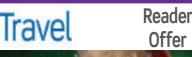


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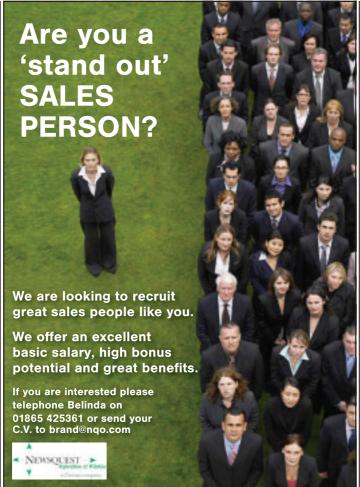
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the furniture.
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the show area next to a green space, are also on the market, priced from £300,000.

Nikki Gibson, sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire, said: "We're delighted to announce that the eagerly-anticipated release of the homes within the stunning show area at Bourne View has arrived.

"These magnificent show homes offer a rare opportunity to purchase a fabulously decorated and furnished house that's ready to move into and to start enjoying straight away."

There's plenty of space for the whole family in the impressive 'Yewdale' design, with its large dualaspect living room boasting double doors to the garden and contemporary open-plan kitchen/ dining room that's ideally suited to informal mealtimes and entertaining alike

The en suite master bedroom is the perfect place to relax at the end of the day, while there are two further bedrooms – one of which could be used as a home office or playroom.

Meanwhile, the 'Shelford' property has a wonderful kitchen/dining room opening out to the garden, plus a beautiful lounge with an attractive bay window and a study.

To view the show homes at Bourne View, househunters should visit the Sales Information Centre, located off Bourne Lane and open daily from 10am to 5pm (Mondays from 1pm to 5pm).

For details, call 01608 690849 or for information about Taylor Wimpey developments call 01235 541900 or visit taylorwimpey.co.uk

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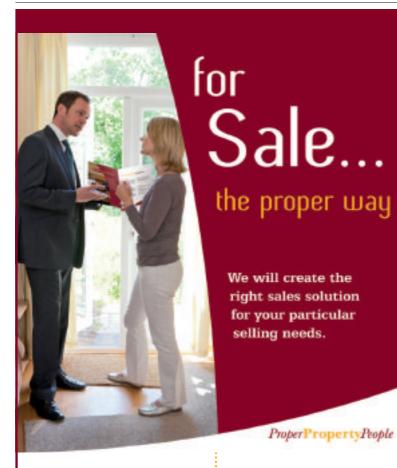
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Thursday, June 30, 2016 25

## Motors





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The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results. \*To qualify for this offer you must present a copy of this advertisement at point of purchase. Free service plan available through both finance and cash MX-5 vehicle purchase subject to availability, valid until Sunday 10th July 2016. All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicle's service book, will be covered for 3 years or 60,000 miles, whichever comes first. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle. Johnsons Cars Ltd (Firm Reference Number: 512460) are an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Ltd, and are authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 313486) and are permitted to advise on and arrange General Insurance contracts.

Thursday, June 30, 2016

### **Motors** - first for new cars

New Car Road Test

The definitive view by Andy Enright



## **Back to the relevant basics**







LIGHTER, sharper and better engineered than the car it replaces, this fourth-generation Mazda MX-5 does everything right. It's offered with a 1.5 or 2.0-litre petrol engine and what it lacks in outright power it more than makes up in agility and tactility

#### Background

Is there another car sold today that rivals the Mazda MX-5's lega cy? The Porsche 911 is an icon and the Toyota GT86 might well become one. The Volkswagen Golf is a name most can identify with, but the MX-5 is special. It has rewritten the record books again and again for sports car sales and its recipe of light weight, driver focus and simple front engine and rear drive layout just has an inherent rightness about it that hasn't

But, as is the case with most cars, successive generations get bigger and heavier. The MX-5 hasn't been immune to this issue, customers demanding improved safety, more equipment and better quality as each successive generation has been developed

With this MK4 model though, Mazda has drawn a line in the sand and gone back to what made the MX-5 so great in the first place. The fourth generation car has

gone back to basics and is all the

**Driving Experience**This rejection of a 'more is better' philosophy is a bit of a running theme throughout this 'ND' MX-5. The car's offered with either a 1.5-litre 131PS engine or a 2.0litre 160PS unit. Mazda's chassis engineers will steer you to the 1.5-litre powerplant as they feel it's the purest specification for the MX-5 and also the lightest, tipping the scales at around the tonne. That makes this the lightest MX-5 since the original first generation 'NA' car of the Nineties.

#### **Design and Build**

The shape of the MX-5 hasn't changed radically from generation to generation. This one's no exception, but there's a bit more aggres sion about the detailing, the car looking like a shrunken Jaguar F-Type roadster from the rear three-quarter. Some have thought there's something a bit fishy-looking about the front end but it'll probably grow on you. See one in the metal and you'll be amazed at just how tiny it is. It's fully 105mm shorter in overall length than the outgoing version, despite the wheelbase only being 15mm less. It also stands 20mm lower and 10mm

wider. Lower and wider is always good for a roadster's stance

In another clever touch, the seat cushions are supported on netting instead of the usual metal springs allowing Mazda to reduce weight and seat the driver's hip point closer to the road. A lower driver then means the windscreen header rail can shift backwards, in this case by 70mm, which in turn means the hood is shorter and lighter, and also easier to package when folded.

Market and Model
Given that there's only one bodystyle, one engine and two gearbox-es, there are quite a few MX-5s to choose between. Mazda offers the car in four trim levels, prices start at around £18,500, with 2.0-litre models costing from just over

The MX-5 gets alloy wheels, LED headlights, a leather steering wheel, plus a lightweight and sleek fabric hood. SE-L models add LED daytime running lights, climate control air-conditioning, DAB radio, Bluetooth and cruise control, plus Mazda's MZD-Connect connectivity and infotainment system with 7-inch colour touch screen display and Multimedia Commander. SE-L models with the .0-litre 160PS engine get gunmetal 17-inch alloy wheels and piano

black door mirrors, as well as benefiting from a strut tower bar and limited slip differential. No prizes for guessing what SE-L Nav mod-els include. Step up to Sport trim and both the 1.5 and 2.0-litre cars feature rain sensing wipers, rear parking sensors, smart keyless entry Premium Bose Surround-Sound and heated leather seats.

Cost of Ownership
Stick with light weight and modest power outputs and this dictates a raft of affordable costs. The MX-5 has long been the exemplar of the affordable sports car and emissions are agreeably low, the 1.5-litre engine pegged at 139g/km and the 2.0-litre 161g/km. The old car was no great shakes in terms of efficiency. In fact the old 2.0-litre emitted 181g/km, worse than 204bhp worth of BMW 523i, so it's good to see Mazda sharpening up

their act in that regard. Residual values ought to hold up well, with the MX-5 a favourite amongst used car buyers due to its relative simplicity, strong reliabili-ty, and low cost to insure.

Weight is the enemy. Excess weight in a car dulls its responses, makes it harder to turn, stop and accelerate, ensures that it drinks

more fuel and puts greater stresses on virtually every moving part, parts which then have to be beefed up and made heavier to cope. The Mazda MX-5 reverses that cycle, stripping weight off which in turn allows it to pare more weight back with other simple lightweight componentry. It's a brilliant piece of engineering.

It also goes to show that you can probably have more fun with 1.5 litres worth of MX-5 than you can with some supercars. No, that's not hyperbole. Try it and you'll see. If you measure your cars in terms of smiles per mile, the MX-5  $\,$ has to be right near the top of your shortlist

#### Facts at a glance

CAR: Mazda MX-5 range PRICES: £18,495 - £24,295 **INSURANCE GROUP: 25-29** CO2 EMISSIONS: 139-161g/km PERFORMANCE: [1.5] 0-62mph 8.3s / top speed 127mph FUEL CONSUMPTION: [2.0] (combined) 40.9 mpg STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: twin front and side airbags, stability control, ABS brakes
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### Motors - first for used cars

**Used Car Road Test** 

by Jonathan Crouch



## Come on, look sharp









THE fifth generation Volkswagen Polo has very quickly established itself as a favourite with British buyers and used examples retain their value well. Stepping out of the shadow of the iconic Golf takes some doing but this was the first Polo in a long time that did just that. Here's what to look for when tracking down a used model.

#### The History

The fifth-generation Polo arrived in British dealers back in October 2009 with a range that drew upon 34 years of experience in this market sector. At launch, the Polo was offered with a choice of five engines, three petrol and two diesel These were a pair of naturally-aspi rated 1.2-litre engines with 60 or 70 PS and a 1.4-litre 85 PS; plus two 1.6-litre common rail TDI units producing 75 or 90 PS.
The following year saw the intro-

duction of the 1.2-litre 105 PS turbo-charged TSI engine and the specialist GTI and BlueMotion models.

The rather slow-selling Moda and SE models were then pensioned off and an old favourite badge came in to replace them, in the form of the

Polo Match. The following year saw the introduction of the aggressive-looking Polo R-Line and the excellent 1.4-litre 140PS BlueGT

Volkswagen also started fitting DAB digital radios and Bluetooth as standard to the Polo. In Spring 2013, there were more equipment tweaks with the BlueMotion and Match get-ting rear parking sensors, cruise control and an alarm, while the Match was renamed the 'Polo Match Edition'. Further up the Polo range, the SEL, R-Line, BlueGT and GTI models were fitted with cruise control and rear parking sensors. A 'Polo R-Line Style' model was added which featured the R-Line body kit, body-coloured door handles and door mirrors, 16-inch 'Rivazza' alloy wheels and a Bluetooth touch phone kit. The Polo received a facelift inside and out for the 2014 model vear.

What To Look For Keep a look out for cars that have been flogged by corporate users and ensure that servicing has been attended to diligently. Check the car's specification carefully as some of the more desirable fea-

tures, like air conditioning, weren't standard on lower spec cars. Check the servicing has been done on the button, especially for BlueMotion and GTI models. The GTI's wheels are hugely prone to kerbing damage, so if you see scuffs, factor those into the negotiation. Another thing you'll also need to look for are buy ers falsely advertising 2009 model year diesels as 'BlueMotion' models. Otherwise, there's not a lot to look out for. Some minor electrical niggles have been reported but on the whole it's a solid and dependa-ble vehicle. In fact, the 2010-11 cars scored the lowest number of faults in the German TuV used car relia-

#### On The Road

The Polo is a vehicle that has campaigned on qualities other than the way it drives. While this may sound a rather harsh appraisal, it's part and parcel of the Polo's role as understudy in all key regards to the Golf. The fifth-generation Polo is a perfectly agreeable thing to drive in most regards, but if you're looking for something dynamically class-leading, you'll face a tough task lik-

ing it. There are three powerplants that mop up the lion's share of all sales. The two most popular petrol units comprise a 1.2-litre three-cylinder producing 60bhp and a 1.4-litre 84bhp. The biggest-selling die-sel is a 1.2-litre 74bhp. Most cars are fitted with a five-speed manual transmission as standard but a sev-en-speed DSG option was offered with the 1.4-litre petrol engine. In truth, this adds cost and complexity when a simple automatic would probably have been a better option for those who want to rest their left leg when driving in stop/start traf-

fic.
Safety has been one area where the Polo scores very highly. Customers get four airbags, ABS and ESP stability control. The handling is safe and predictable and the petrol engines feel honest enough.

The diesel is rather vocal and can feel alarmingly limp if caught off boost. Wind noise and road roar at speed are very well suppressed. The Polo GTI deserves special mention. The 1.4-litre TSI engine uses a supercharger to boost performance low in the rev range helping develop 250Nm at just 2,000rpm. The turbo-

charger cuts in at 3,000rpm taking the engine up to its peak power of 178bhp at 6,200rpm. It all makes for a 0-62mph sprint of 6.9s and a 142mph top speed, easily guaranteeing membership of the hot hatch club. It comes with a seven-speed DSG paddle-shift gearbox and an XDS electronic differential as part of its ESP stability control

#### Overall

The Mk5 Polo makes a genuinely solid used buy, presentable at any social occasion and with a decent

selection of used stock available. Unless you want the most sparkling driving experience in its class, it's hard to see how you could be disappointed. We'd look to a BlueMotion diesel if you're covering bigger miles or a 1.2 TSI if your car is to be just a social, shopping and school run scoot. Don't overlook the GTI if you're looking for something with more edge to its character. It won't keep up with something like a hot Clio or Fiesta on give-and-take roads but it might just be the more rounded long-term ownership proposition.



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Thursday, June 30, 2016

### Motors - first for new cars

#### New Car Launch Model Of The Week

by Jonathan Crouch



## Compact with a capital Q







AUDI aims to inject a little more fun into its SUV line-up with this more compact and affordable Q2 model. It's aimed at customers wanting a Nissan Juke-style small Crossover but requiring a little more class and quality.

#### Background

'Fun' isn't a word you necessarily associate with Audi. 'Cool' perhaps. 'Classy' possibly. 'Mature' definitely. Well forget that third adjective when it comes to discussion of this car, the Audi Q2. It's the kind of product that the German brand hopes will lower its target age demographic, at the same time giving buyers of small Crossovers a more appealing option to aspire

In truth, it's likely that the Q2 will prove to be a little too pricey for customers of those cars but premium models in this segment tenders like Honda's HR-V and Jeep's Renegade - should certainly feel the heat from this Q2.

**Driving Experience**The Q2 is available with a selection of five different engines. Along with a 1.0-litre three-cylinder TFSI, two four-cylinder petrol engines are being offered with 1.4 and 2.0 litres of displacement. In addition, two four-cylinder diesel engines are available with 1.6 and 2.0 litres of

displacement and outputs of 116PS and 150PS. As an alternative to the six-speed manual transmission, Audi also offers the S tronic dual clutch transmission with seven speeds for all engines. The 150PS TDI engine can be combined with quattro permanent all-wheel drive and the system is standard in conjunction with the 2.0 TFSI engine.

Installed at the rear on the front wheel drive versions is a semi-inde pendent suspension, while the quattro models have a four-link suspension. Progressive steering is standard in all versions. It varies the steering gear ratio as a function of the steering input; the ratio is made more direct with large steering movements. Adaptive dampers are available as an option, as is the Audi drive select system with which drivers can set an individual characteristic for their Q2.

#### **Design and Build**

The Q2 certainly looks distinctive with its 'floating blade' C-pillar and colourful trimming. It's slightly shorter and narrower than an A3 hatch and boasts a complex shape that shows a lot of vertices and edges. At the front, a strong image is created by the high-mounted Singleframe grille and the large air

In profile, the high shoulder line is especially eye-catching as are the concave flanks in the door area.

Practically, the Q2 fulfils the fun damental expectations of an SUV with a high entry, good visibility and a large luggage compartment (405 to 1,050-litres of capacity), yet the driver's seat position is low in relation to the steering wheel as in an Audi saloon, Optional practical solutions are available such as a power tailgate and a three-way split rear bench backrest with cargo through-loading.

#### Market and Model

Prices haven't yet been announced but we can expect them to be pitched just above the brand's A1 supermini, which means that most Q2 buyers will probably be paying somewhere in the £17,000 to £25,000 bracket.

Individuality will be key in this Q2's likely market - inside and out. A range of equipment packages, exterior colours and expressive colours for interior trim and seat upholstery should allow plenty of creative space for personal configuration. One option is the LED lighting package, in which the interior is staged in a particularly attractive way with illuminated trim elements. Newly designed 17-inch alloy wheels are fitted as standard and can be optionally increased to 19 inches upon request.

The free Audi MMI connect app

enables online media streaming and transfer of a calendar from a smartphone to the MMI infotainment system. The app for iOS operating systems also has a 'myAudi' destinations function. It makes it possible to send the data of a desired navigation destination from any app to the MMI navigation plus system. The system then uses it for navigation.

Cost of Ownership
The Q2 looks set to be a frugal choice if you're looking for a car of this kind. The 1.0-litre TFSI pet rol version's likely to be a popular choice, capable of around 65mpg on the combined cycle and a CO2 return around the 100g/km mark.

The 1.6-litre diesel of course does even better, with combined cycle fuel consumption of over 70mpg possible.

Even the pokey petrol 2.0-litre TFSI variant promises to be reasonably efficient thanks to use of a dual-clutch transmission which has an efficient type of oil supply and reduced friction.

Depreciation figures should be as strong as they usually are on Audi models. It's a little disappointing though, that the brand sticks to its usual 60,000 mile limit on the three year warranty. Optional extra-cost packages can extend the cover to either four or

five years. Pre-paid servicing packages are also available.

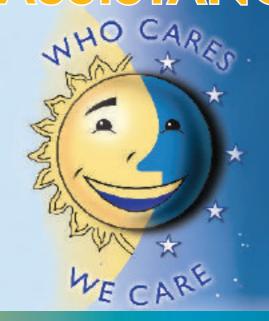
In some ways, you wonder why it took Audi so long to enter the small Crossover market. Yes, it's had its Q3 model in campaigning here, but that car has proved to be a little too pricey to interest the Juke and Captur crowd. This car will still require such people to take a long hard look at their bank balances but it'll certainly be more accessi-

Potential buyers will like the styling, the technology and possibilities for personalisation. The result is a car that will usefully widen Audi's market reach.

#### Facts at a glance

CAR: Audi Q2 range PRICES: £22,000 - £30,000 (est)
INSURANCE GROUPS: TBC CO2 EMISSIONS: [1.0 TFSI] 100g/km [est] PERFORMANCE: [1.0 TFSI] 0-62mph 11.5s / top speed 115mph [est] FUEL CONSUMPTION: [1.0 TFSI] 65mpg (combined) [est] STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: ABS, stability control, twin front, side and curtain airbags
WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARAGE?: Length/Width/Heightmm TBC

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